



From Our Big Brothers Big Sisters Family to Yours

*Thank you for enrolling your child in the
Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program at McDaniel School!
We are now recruiting for the 2020-2021 school year*

Who We Are

- Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence provides students with one-to-one mentoring relationships with adults from the community, right in your child's school. When they meet, Bigs and Littles read together, play sports and games, work on homework, or simply talk about things that are happening in their lives. During COVID-19 all meetings will occur virtually through video conferencing platforms.

What to Expect

- We will interview your child virtually through video-conferencing or in school in order to find them the best possible mentor ("Big"). We will ask your child about their friends, family, and why they want a Big.
- Matching your child to a mentor could take place any time between the months of **October – March** and will be based on the availability of volunteer mentors.
- Once your child is matched, they will meet with their Big at City Hall or virtually 2-4 times a month at a scheduled time.
- Children and their Bigs are only permitted to meet in-person at City Hall, but are encouraged to keep in touch outside of school on the phone, through email, through video chat, or text messaging, if you approve.
- The role of a Big is to be an additional friend and a positive role model – someone your child can talk to and have fun with.
- A Program Coordinator from Big Brothers Big Sisters will be checking in with your child on a regular basis at school and on the phone to ensure that he/she is developing a safe and healthy relationship with their Big. In addition, each parent/guardian will be contacted throughout the year.
- We encourage you to talk to your child about their relationship with their Big. Ask them what they do together and how they feel about their Big.
- BBBS IR does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected factor.
- Match Closure is another way of saying that the match has ended. While Match Closure is a natural part of the relationship, we hope that each match is together for at least a whole school year. Various circumstances will impact a match staying together and we encourage parents to help support Littles during relationship transitions.

Volunteers for the program, which we call "Bigs," are professionals/ from City Hall. Just like the children in our program, we interview all of our volunteers.

As the leading volunteer and donor-supported one-to-one youth mentoring organization, we make the success of each mentoring match our top priority!

Program Coordinator Contact Information

Name: Kevin Mulroy
Phone: 215-701-8120
Email: kmulroy@independencebigs.org



Virtual Programming:

Our goal at Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence (BBBSI) is to foster and protect the potential of youth in our region through impactful mentoring relationships. We love it when our matches can meet in-person, but recognize maintaining meaningful connections sometimes requires the flexibility to meet through virtual means. There are potential dangers associated with internet-based communications. These dangers exist in many settings; however, we believe the benefits of virtual communications with the Littles in our Program outweigh the potential risks and are taking appropriate precautions. We look to you to help ensure internet safety while your child is using virtual platforms. The following guidelines will help to ensure safety:

- Your child should not create any accounts with online video platforms. BBBSI will provide a link that they can open in a web browser or access through your account or their school account.
- You and your child should be mindful about what family activities would potentially be heard/seen during the students' use of virtual meeting platforms.
- Your child should dress appropriately when using virtual meeting platforms and make sure that there are no distracting materials or backgrounds.
- Students/parents/guardians should not take photos, screenshots, record any video, or audio, from these sessions.
- You will maintain the confidentiality of other youth if your child is participating in a group mentoring session or group match activity.

Parent/Guardian Reminders:

By enrolling your child in the program, you have agreed to:

- Talk with my child about their mentor ("Big") and the activities that they do together.
- Communicate with my child's Big and allow phone/email/text/virtual chat to occur between my child and their Big.
- Understand that the BBBSI Program Coordinator is there to help my child's match and agree to respond when messages are left or letters/emails are sent because communication is essential to a successful match. I will contact BBBSI immediately if a problem develops.
- Understand my child's relationship is a Site-Based relationship and will only occur 1) in-person at the designated site and/or 2) virtually.
- Ensure that no visits will occur over the summer, unless approved in advance by BBBSI.
- Give permission for my child to participate in virtual meetings (including but not limited to Zoom, Google Meet, FaceTime) with BBBSI staff, volunteer mentors, other youth mentees and other participants of the BBBSI program.

Parent/Guardian Reminders Continued:



- Give permission for myself and my child to participate in the BBBSI online e-mentoring platform by sending messages back and forth with my child's mentor and staff from BBBSI, and reporting information about activities that my child and their Big complete.
- As legal parent or guardian of the child noted below ("Minor Child"), I irrevocably consent for myself and Minor Child to any and all uses and displays of my or Minor Child's name, image, likeness, appearance, and basic biographical information in, on, or in connection with any advertising, publicity, marketing, or printed or electronic media, of any type, throughout the world at any time by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, BBBSI, and any of their affiliates, successors, partners, sponsors, donors, and any entities or persons with whom they conduct any public relations, marketing, or fund raising of any type without further consent from me or Minor Child, without any royalty, payment, or other compensation to me or Minor Child, and with the release and waiver of any claims, actions, damages, losses, costs, expenses and liability of any kind arising from any such use.
- Consent to emergency transport and treatment to preserve the health of my child in the event of an accident. I acknowledge that I am responsible for all charges associated with my child's treatment.
- Give the school and school district permission to release my child's grades, attendance and disciplinary records to BBBSI to be used solely for BBBSI's statistical reporting purposes. In some cases BBBSI may use third party community partners and when required may share information with these service providers. BBBSI is committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information and will take reasonable precautions to ensure that there will be no unauthorized release of your confidential information to others
- Allow my child to complete questionnaires including but not limited to questions about peer relationships, feelings about school, grades, educational expectations, parental relationships and attitudes toward risky behaviors.
- Agree to release, waive and hold harmless BBBSI and all of its officers, employees and agents from any liability, claims or actions of any kind that arise out of or are related to any loss, damage, or injury that may be sustained by my child during involvement in the BBBSI program or any of its sponsored activities.
- If my child is enrolled in the Beyond School Walls program, agree to allow BBBSI to be transported from their school to the site and back.

Thank you for enrolling your child in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence Mentoring Program!

Please keep this sheet for your records.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence | 123 S. Broad St., Suite 1050, Philadelphia, PA 19109 | 215.790.9200 | independencebigs.org